

3.06: ~~The New England Championship Title~~ State Boxing Championship Program

~~(1) There shall be established in each weight class a New England Champion Title. To qualify for the title, a boxer must have been legally domiciled in one of the New England States for at least the preceding six consecutive months, and must defend the title as set forth in 523 CMR 3.06(2).~~

~~(2) Any boxer holding or acquiring a New England Championship Title shall defend the title to a decision in a boxing contest against a qualified and logical contender so recognized by the New England Association of Boxing Commissioners. This boxing contest must be ten rounds in duration. It must take place within six months from the date of adoption or six months from the date of acquiring the title, and within six months thereafter from time to time, provided there is available a qualified and logical contender. For cause shown, the New England Association of Boxing Commissioners may extend the time for defense of a title. Every three months, the Ratings Committee of the New England Association of Boxing Commissioners shall select the qualified and logical contenders from among the outstanding boxers in New England. Their selection shall be considered final.~~

~~(3) If a New England Champion fails to defend the title as required herein, or is unable to make the required weight or otherwise properly defend the title, the title shall be forfeited and declared vacated. In that event, a match or matches shall be held between the leading contenders of that class to determine the next New England Champion.~~

(1) Title. The program outlined in 523 CMR 3.06 shall be formally known as the State Boxing Championship Program.

(2) Objectives. The purpose of 523 CMR 3.06 is to prescribe guidelines and criteria for the objective and consistent rankings of professional boxers in furtherance of attaining the state championship in individual weight classes. The Commission recognizes that any ranking structure can be subjective in nature. Accordingly, these guidelines are intended to create a ranking structure that is objective, precise and consistent: based less on subjectivity and more on competition between active boxers so that when a state title bout is advertised, the general public is assured that it is, indeed, between two deserving boxers.

(3) Philosophy. The philosophy behind the State Boxing Championship Program is to have the boxers themselves prove they are worthy of a top ranking. Movement in the rankings of top boxers should ultimately be based upon wins and losses and not on subjective criteria. For boxers to maintain top ranking, they should be, at the very least, active and competing against other ranked opponents. This type of ranking system is intended to increase activity among the top boxers of the state.

(4) Ranking panel. Rankings shall be determined by a three member panel appointed by the Commission for such purpose. Appointment to the ranking panel shall be for a term of two years. Members of the panel shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission.

(5) Approval of rankings. Once determined, the ranking panel shall forward the proposed rankings to the Commission for approval. The Commission may adjust the rankings, but shall generally defer to the recommendation of the ranking panel and shall exercise such discretionary authority with due circumspection.

(6) Ranking criteria.

(a) The following factors, in no particular order, shall be considered by the ranking panel in determining rankings:

1. Overall win/loss record (as reported by FightFax)
2. Overall level of completion including records of opponents
3. Results versus common opponents
4. Overall level and frequency of activity
5. Level and frequency of activity within Massachusetts

(b) The following factors shall not be considered by the ranking panel in determining rankings:

1. The identity of the boxer's promoter, manager or any other person with whom the boxer is affiliated
2. The attendance of the boxer or the boxer's affiliates at a convention, conference, or other function sponsored by the Commission.
3. Any activity not directly related to a boxer's performance as a professional boxer with the exception of any activity that directly undermines the integrity of the noble sport of boxing.

(7) Weight classes. Unless otherwise indicated, there shall be rankings and a champion in each of the following 9 weight classes:

- (a) Heavyweight
- (b) Cruiserweight
- (c) Light-heavy weight
- (d) Middleweight
- (e) Welterweight
- (f) Lightweight
- (g) Featherweight
- (h) Bantamweight
- (i) Flyweight

(8) Rankings. There may be up to ten boxers ranked in each weight class identified in 523 CMR 3.06(7). No boxer can be ranked in more than one division at one time. For a boxer to be ranked, he must reside in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or if a non-resident, have fought in Massachusetts at least three 2 times in the preceding calendar

year. In order to be ranked, the boxer shall have competed in at least 2 bouts scheduled for 6 rounds, or 3 bouts scheduled for 4 rounds.

(9) Maintaining rankings.

(a) In order to maintain a spot in the rankings, a boxer:

(1) shall compete in Massachusetts at least once during a 12 month period from the time the boxer gets ranked; and,

(2) shall have competed against another ranked boxer in Massachusetts within an 18 month period from the time the boxer gets ranked;

(b) A boxer who does not meet the requirements set forth in part 523 CMR 3.06(9)(a) shall be immediately removed from the rankings. The boxer shall immediately regain eligibility once he competes in Massachusetts.

(c) Exceptions. If a boxer does not meet the requirements set forth in 523 CMR 3.06(9)(a), they may maintain their ranking if they are able to demonstrate to the Commission's satisfaction that such shortcoming was due to injury (said injury must be verified in writing by a licensed physician) or for any exceptional circumstance deemed acceptable to the Commission.

(d) If a ranked boxer loses to an un-ranked boxer, the ranked boxer shall be lowered at least one position in the rankings, and the un-ranked boxer shall be immediately considered for a ranking.

(e) If two ranked boxers compete against each other and the lower ranked boxer wins, the lower ranked boxer shall be elevated in the rankings, and the higher ranked boxer shall be lowered in the rankings.

(10) Initial determination of a Champion. The initial champion in each weight class shall be named by the Commission based upon a recommendation of the ranking panel in a manner described in sections 523 CMR 3.06(5) & (6). The boxer may not take possession of the championship belt unless he wins it in an actual bout. The Commission may elect not to name a champion in a particular weight class if it is determined that the class of boxers competing in that division is inadequate to determine a meaningful champion. In the event that no champion is named, the Commission may designate the top two boxers in that division as mandatory challengers for each other.

(11) Champions. A boxer may become the champion of a particular weight class by either being named champion initially by the Commission as described in paragraph 523 CMR 3.06(10) or by defeating the boxer who holds the championship in a match sanctioned by the Commission. No boxer may hold a championship in more than one weight class at a time. No boxer who has held a world or international title shall be eligible to hold the state championship. There shall be no "Super Champion."

(12) Rules of engagement. Championship bouts shall be scheduled for 10 rounds. The match shall be conducted in accordance with the rules set forth in 523 CMR and Appendix B in particular.

(13) Defense and transfer of title.

- (a) Title defense. The champion shall defend his title in Massachusetts within 9 months of receiving it and within 9 months of his previous title defense. Failure of a champion to timely defend their title, without good cause as determined by the Commission, shall result in forfeiture of the title. In case of forfeiture, the Commission shall determine a new champion in the same manner as set forth in paragraph 523 CMR 3.06(10).
- (b) Transfer of title. If a boxer defeats the champion in a Commission sanctioned match by knockout, technical knockout, decision, or disqualification, that person shall become the new champion of that weight class.
- (c) Interim Champions. There shall be no “interim” champions. If a champion is injured or otherwise incapacitated and thus cannot satisfy their title defense obligations set forth in paragraph 523 CMR 3.06(13)(a), the Commission may for good cause grant the fighter an additional 60 day grace period in which to make the required title defense. If no title defense is made by either the end of the grace period or the mandatory defense period set forth in paragraph 523 CMR 3.06(13) (a), whichever is later in time, the next two highest ranked boxers in that weight class shall compete for the title. Once the injured champion notifies the Commission that he is able to resume boxing, that individual shall be the mandatory challenger for the new champion.
- (d) Mandatory challengers. The Commission may identify a boxer as a mandatory challenger within a weight class. In order to be identified as a mandatory challenger, the boxer must either be ranked number 2 in the weight class, have won an elimination bout between top contenders from within the weight class, or designated as such pursuant to 523 CMR 3.06(10). If a mandatory challenger is identified in a weight class, the champion must fight that individual within 9 months in order to maintain the title. Failure of the champion to do so shall be cause for the Commission to strip the champion of the title. In such a case, a new champion shall be determined consistent with 523 CMR 3.06(13)(c). Failure of a mandatory challenger to accept a fight with the champion within 9 months of being so named will result in that individual being stripped of the designation and being lowered in the rankings.

(14) Discipline. At its sole discretion, the Commission may by majority vote remove any fighter from the rankings or strip a boxer of a championship for any violations of 523 CMR, a violation of any law of the Commonwealth or the United States, or engaging in any behavior that undermines the integrity of the noble sport of boxing. After such vote,

the Commission shall notify the boxer of the decision in writing and reasons therefore. The boxer may appeal said decision within 30 days of receipt thereof and request a hearing before the Commission. Hearings shall be conducted pursuant to G.L. c.30A and the Informal/Fair Hearings rules (801 CMR 1.02). The boxer shall be notified of such hearing in writing a reasonable period of time in advance. Mailing of such notice via first class mail to the address provided to the Commission as part of the licensing process shall be considered proper notice for these purposes.

(15) Sponsorship. The Commission may accept sponsorship funds from public or private organizations or individuals for purposes of implementing and promoting the State Boxing Championship Program. Sponsorship funds may not be accepted from any organization or individual that has, or may have, a stake or interest, direct or indirect, in the outcome of any match or an individual boxer. Nor may funds be accepted from any organization or individual that is in any way under the regulatory authority of the Commission or Department of Public Safety. No sponsorship agreement entered into between the Commission and a sponsor shall in any way be construed so as to create any obligations beyond those otherwise set forth in 523 CMR upon any specific boxer, promoter or other licensee. By virtue of being ranked or obtaining a championship, a boxer consents to use of their name or likeness in any promotional materials disseminated by the Commission in furtherance of the State Boxing Championship Program. A boxer may refuse a ranking or championship by notifying the Commission of such in writing.